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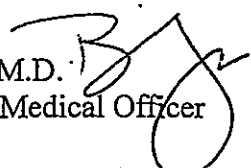
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July 30, 2007

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Bruce A. Chernof, M.D. 
Director and Chief Medical Officer

SUBJECT: **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
HOMELESS PATIENT DISCHARGES**

This is to provide you with the sixth quarterly update on activities related to the discharge of homeless patients from Department of Health Services (DHS) hospitals.

In the correspondence dated February 28, 2006, the Department committed to the following:

- 1) Work with the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) to implement a pilot project out-stationing eligibility workers at DHS hospitals if the Board approved this recommendation in the Homeless Prevention Initiative, and
- 2) Develop and implement a standardized policy within all of DHS inpatient facilities by July 1, 2006, that will outline the expected discharge planning activities to be conducted on behalf of homeless or unstably housed patients.

DPSS Eligibility Workers at DHS Medical Centers

As previously reported, the out-stationing of DPSS eligibility workers at DHS hospitals to take General Relief, CalWORKS, and Food Stamp applications was implemented on July 25, 2006. As of June 29, 2007, 463 patients were referred to the on-site DPSS eligibility workers, 157 awards were granted and 13 applications are pending.

Policies for Patient Discharges

As stated in previous updates to your Board, DHS has fully implemented the Discharge Planning Protocols and Procedures for Department of Health Services' Homeless or Unstably Housed Patients, effective July 1, 2006.

DHS continues to explore ways to address the challenges of discharging homeless patients with multiple medical issues for whom independent living is not an option, those who refuse referrals to a safe environment, and those who have higher level needs but are not accepted into a skilled nursing facility.

This also serves to update your Board on three other DHS projects focused on improving access to resources and appropriate housing opportunities for our homeless or unstably housed patients.

Access to Housing for Health (AHH)

On June 26, 2006, your Board approved the Access to Housing for Health (AHH) Pilot Project, which is a partnership between DHS and the Community Development Commission (CDC), to provide DHS with a total of one hundred Section 8 housing vouchers and fifteen public housing units. The funding for AHH will provide the supportive services component, which includes temporary motel vouchers, first and last months rent, housing location services, case management and administrative costs.

On December 5, 2006, your Board approved the two AHH contracts with Del Richardson for the housing locator services and with Homeless Healthcare Los Angeles for case management, temporary housing, and management of first and last months rent.

DHS began enrolling patients in March 2007. As of mid-July, there have been 102 referrals to AHH, 22 patients have been enrolled into AHH, and 7 applications are pending. Of the 22 clients in the AHH project, 2 have been placed into permanent housing, 16 are in temporary housing, and 4 have exited the program.

The patients who were referred but could not be enrolled into AHH fell into one of the following categories: they did not meet eligibility criteria; they were too sick to be housed independently; or they did not pass the criminal background check. AHH staff continues to conduct outreach efforts to DHS hospital social workers and to take referrals from the DHS emergency rooms.

Expansion of Recuperative Care for Homeless Patients

On September 26, 2006, under the Homeless and Housing Program Fund (HHPF), your Board approved DHS to develop and implement 15 new recuperative care beds for homeless patients discharged from DHS facilities. DHS planned to implement these beds at the Salvation Army's Bell Shelter in the City of Bell. At the July 3, 2007 City of Commerce City Council meeting, the Council Members voted not to support this effort. The City of Commerce is adjacent to the Bell Shelter. DHS is currently working with project partners to address the concerns of the City of Commerce and to obtain support for the project.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

BAC:lb
511:020

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors